

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

It is indeed an honor for me to have been elected editor of the Journal of the International Society for Plastination. Our publication is now in its eleventh year and, as you can see, has undergone a few changes in its look and general arrangement.

For his invaluable advice concerning its publication, I am deeply indebted to Dr. Régis Olry. I also wish to thank my employer, l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, and its audiovisual department for allowing me free access to needed equipment. Special thanks, too, to Mr. Jean-Pierre Côté for instructing me in the proper use of this equipment.

With the assistance of our editorial staff, I promise to make every effort to produce a journal that will satisfy the criteria for a scientific publication. To do this, however, the participation of writers in the field is essential, and I therefore invite each of you to submit discussion papers of your findings and ideas.

A quick glance at the *Current Plastination Index* shows there is still much room for innovation in the fields of application for the plastination technique. In his editorial, Professor Pieter Nel mentions many fields where plastination may be used in research. If each member of the Society were to write a paper every two or three years, there would be plenty of material for two or more issues of our journal each year.

On the first editorial page of the Journal (1,1, January 1987), Dr. Harmon Bickley wrote that most of the members of our Society expected the Journal to "emphasize practical information, equipment suggestions and a how-to-do-it approach to technique." Though much has been published on these topics since then, I feel we still have the responsibility to publicize any new technical procedure, however minor or seemingly trivial, that may facilitate work in the plastination laboratory and improve our specimens. For this reason, we welcome brief communications as well as full-length papers.

In the present issue, Dr. Régis Olry and Miss Kaoru Motomiya present the first paper in a series that will discuss the history of anatomical dissection and preservation techniques. Although it does not deal with plastination techniques as such, this historic series should prove of great general interest. Another paper by Mr. Peter Cook discusses security in the plastination laboratory, a topic of concern to everyone. The Journal also breaks new ground by publish-

ing a first "Review" in the field of plastination, in which Dr. Bob Henry and his collaborators describe the various ways to prepare specimens before plastination with Silicone S10. These are only three of the excellent articles to be found in this issue.

Starting now, our publication will display colored pictures of plastinated specimens on its cover page. These will not necessarily correspond to the contents of the issue, and for this reason, I invite readers to submit colored pictures of their more notable plastinated specimens. The picture should be 5x7 inches (13x18 cm) in size and must be accompanied by a brief description of the specimen and the technique used to produce it. A picture bank will then be made for future reference.

Like the Society it represents, the Journal must continue to evolve. Accordingly, I invite our readers to send in any comments or suggestions they think would make our publication more responsive to their needs. There is room for more members on our editorial staff, so if you're interested, please be sure to let us know. Your task will be to review the papers we receive. You should have an E-mail address and/or FAX for rapid communication, and you must be able to review the paper within two weeks.

Finally, I wish to express my gratitude to members of our present staff for their truly remarkable work in preparing this issue.

Gilles Grondin
Editor